

**House File 2371 - Introduced**

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**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing financial support from the community  
2 attraction and tourism fund for regional ethnic festivals  
3 and making appropriations.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 15F.204, subsection 5, unnumbered  
2 paragraph 1, Code Supplement 2009, is amended to read as  
3 follows:

4 At the beginning of each fiscal year, the board shall  
5 allocate one hundred thousand dollars for purposes of marketing  
6 those projects that are receiving moneys from the fund and  
7 five hundred thousand dollars for purposes of supporting  
8 regional ethnic festivals pursuant to section 15F.207. After  
9 the marketing allocation and the regional ethnic festivals  
10 allocation, the board shall allocate all remaining moneys in  
11 the fund in the following manner:

12 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **15F.207 Regional ethnic festivals —**  
13 **applications.**

14 1. *a.* The department shall accept applications for  
15 financial assistance from the organizers of regional ethnic  
16 festivals. The applications shall be analyzed and evaluated in  
17 substantially the same manner as provided in section 15F.206,  
18 subsection 1. The department, in coordination with the board,  
19 shall adopt rules governing the application and awards process.

20 *b.* The financial assistance shall be provided from the  
21 moneys allocated for such purposes pursuant to section 15F.204,  
22 subsection 5. The amount of financial assistance awarded to  
23 an applicant under this section shall not exceed one hundred  
24 thousand dollars.

25 2. To be eligible for financial assistance under this  
26 section, an applicant shall be a nonprofit entity exempt from  
27 federal income taxation pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the  
28 Internal Revenue Code, shall demonstrate that the festival  
29 would generate a significant amount of cultural and tourism  
30 opportunities within a community, and shall demonstrate the  
31 participation of at least four of the following:

32 *a.* A city.

33 *b.* A county.

34 *c.* Two or more schools from a local school district.

35 *d.* A community college.

1 e. A private college or a board of regents institution.

2 f. An entity with a focus on cultural attraction or  
3 promotion.

4 g. A historical society.

5 h. One or more businesses.

6 EXPLANATION

7 This bill relates to the allocation of moneys in the  
8 community attraction and tourism fund for regional ethnic  
9 festivals.

10 The bill directs the vision Iowa board to annually allocate  
11 \$500,000 of the moneys in the fund, before making the other  
12 statutory allocations, for purposes of providing financial  
13 support to regional ethnic festivals.

14 The bill provides for an application evaluation process that  
15 is substantially the same as the existing process for applying  
16 to the board for river enhancement community attraction and  
17 tourism moneys. In order to receive financial assistance,  
18 an applicant must be a nonprofit entity, must show that  
19 the festival will create significant cultural and tourism  
20 opportunities in a community, and must have the participation  
21 of at least four other local community entities including city  
22 or county governments, schools, private colleges, universities,  
23 historical societies, cultural entities, or businesses.